

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

The present inventor came to the striking realization that after extended viewing, storing, and editing digital images the image quality became ~~increasing~~ increasingly more degraded. After further consideration of the unexpected image quality ~~derogation~~ degradation the present inventor determined that the principal source of the image quality ~~derogation~~ degradation is the modification of the image file itself between different applications.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 4, for example, if the image is captured or otherwise obtained in an initial format and thereafter modified to a different format for storage, modified for viewing, modified for editing, or otherwise modified, then the modifications will result in a ~~derogation~~ degradation of the quality of the digital image.